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Spring 2020

## Eagle Accountant

Parker College of Business

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# Eagle Accountant

## SPRING 2020



### Note from the Director

I want to thank my colleagues and students for putting this newsletter together. It is not a substitute for our usual interactions, but this may serve as a nice touchpoint for all of us.

I can bet that none of us expected that this spring semester would result in everyone having to physically distance ourselves in the face of a global pandemic. I am so very proud of the faculty and our students for moving to an online environment and staying committed to learning.

Our faculty have excellent prior experience in delivering content online, so they were well prepared for the challenges to help students make the transition. We have been delivering a highly-rated online Master of Accounting program since 2012, and we have offered most of our undergraduate courses online in the summer. The University has excellent resources to train and support faculty in using distance learning technologies.

We began the academic year with three new faculty members, and three temporary instructors became permanent lecturers. Our faculty is talented and united. The economic outlook for all of our students, BBA and MAcc, was very bright as the demand for

high-quality accountants has been strong in harmony with an economy singing along. Even some concerns about the impact of automation and artificial intelligence have not lessened the demand for strong accounting professionals.

Things started to change in February. This is an extraordinary time for the world, our country, and our profession. Much is unknown and uncertain; what is certain is the need for folks in the accounting profession to be vigilant and informed and to be flexible and adaptable in their response to these changing times.

We have amazing support from our alumni who not only come back to hire our students but also contribute their time and money to help the next wave of Eagle graduates skill up for the new demands of businesses and employers.

Our student organizations have held numerous programs to support professional networking, diversity, and ethics including Beta Alpha Psi, Fraud Examiners Club, Accounting Association, and the National Association of Black Accountants.

Our graduates continue to do well on the CPA exam beating the national average and Georgia state average in pass rates. We continue to work with our students to support their efforts to pass all parts of the CPA exam before they graduate and take on full-time employment.

We offered our first-ever VITA program to help folks needing help with their taxes.

Finally, we have offered some pro bono forensic accounting assistance to organizations facing fraud or malicious behavior.

***Tim Pearson, Ph.D., Director***





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## SOA at a Glance

- More than 500 undergraduate and graduate students
- More than 140 MAcc students
- One of a handful of schools worldwide to have both college accreditation and separate school of accountancy accreditation through the AACSB.
- Full membership in the Federation of Schools of Accountancy
- Online MAcc ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the country ([bestmastersprograms.org](http://bestmastersprograms.org))
- \$80,000 in student scholarships given at 2020 Accounting Day
- One of the few forensic accounting certificate programs in the country
- Students taught by faculty—over 90% of whom are full time—never by grad students

## Advisory Council

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Nicole Westphal, *Aprio*

Joshua Wyatt, *TJS Deemer Dana*



# The 4.4 Accountant

By Michael Wiggins



No tricky contract lawyer is going to pull the wool over the eyes of NFL running back Matt Breida. That's because Breida, the fastest running back in pro football, also may be the most brilliant. He is a proud Georgia Southern School of Accountancy alumnus, finishing his BBA in accounting on time in 2017 while tending to full-time football duties.

Breida had a storied career as an Eagle. As a sophomore running back, he led the Sun Belt Conference with 1,485 yards rushing. He improved to 1,609 for his junior season. Overall, Breida scored 37 touchdowns in three seasons as a starter with a stellar 6.9 yards per carry average.

Eagles football uncharacteristically slumped and Breida's production dropped off his senior year after an ill-fated overhaul of the offense. To the surprise of many Eagles fans, he went undrafted. But, with the same fortitude he used to excel in Intermediate III accounting, he dug down deep, took part in a pro day, and left NFL scouts agog at his performance. Breida had a vertical leap of 42", a standing broad jump of 11'-2" and ran a blazing 4.38 40-yard dash. Had Breida been invited to the NFL Combine to compete against the top prospects, he'd have finished first against all participants in each of those categories. Only two running backs since 2000 have bested his sub-4.4 40 time. Just like that, the NFL sat

up and took notice of Matt Breida. The 49ers quickly inked him to a \$1.7 million contract, and he became a part of the most potent rushing attack in the NFL, sharing time with stars Rasheem Mostert and Tevin Coleman. Breida more than held his own. He has 2,463 total yards from scrimmage over the last three seasons. He averaged an outstanding 5.0 yards per carry in 2019, 7<sup>th</sup> among NFL running backs. He has had flashes of absolute brilliance. In October of 2019, Breida clocked the highest speed in the NFL for the year, reaching 22.3 mph on a sensational 83-yard touchdown run.

**"I just want...another crack at the Super Bowl."**

Breida lived every football player's dream in February 2020 when he played in Super Bowl LIV. While the 49ers lost a hard-fought game, (partly due to nagging injuries) Breida's role was limited to special teams. He quickly regrouped to plan his next move. He recently told a San Francisco talk show host, "I just want...another crack at the Super Bowl."

Breida's future is not in San Francisco. He will be closer to home for the 2020 season. In April, he was traded to the Miami Dolphins, and he signed a \$3.26 million one-year contract. He will join former Heisman Trophy winner and Crimson Tide standout Tua Tagovailoa on offense. With the Heisman quarterback in the same backfield as the fastest back in the league, it's shaping up to be an electrifying offense.

Breida has not forgotten his accounting roots. In 2019, he took to social media to tell fans that his favorite courses in college were in accounting and that he plans to earn the CPA once he finally hangs up the cleats. It's a reasonable bet that the fastest, hardest charging accountant anyone has ever seen will one day join the ranks of Georgia accountants.

## Accounting Day 2020

Accounting Day 2020 was perhaps the most unusual in Georgia Southern history. Covid-19 saw to that. The job fair followed by the much-anticipated banquet at which students network with top regional professionals was gone. Fortunately for students, scholarships hit an all-time high of more than \$80,000, and the ingenuity of SOA faculty and staff permitted the show to go on. Professors Britt McKay and Dwight Sneathen hosted a virtual ceremony that accounting faculty, students, and professionals could log into and watch scholarships awarded from their safe quarantine spaces.

# ***VIRTUAL*** **ACCOUNTING DAY** **APRIL 29, 2020**



Professors McKay and Sneathen maintain a safe social distancing six-foot gap at the first (and possibly only) Virtual Accounting Day.

[Watch Virtual Accounting Day 2020](#)



## Accounting Day Scholarships



**Sarah Adams**  
Paul Lagrone



**Samantha Curra**  
Aprio



**Braylen Dixon**  
Educational Foundation  
Smith & Howard



**Jesse Alley**  
William Herring



**Ashley Dansby**  
Mauldin & Jenkins



**Elaina Fears**  
Draffin Tucker



**Gabrielle Beasley**  
PCAOB Scholar



**Lewis "Trey" Davis**  
Coastal GA Chapter GSCPA  
Billy & JoAnne Hickman  
Educational Foundation



**Cassandra Galban**  
Smith & Howard



**Briana Brantley**  
Coastal GA Chapter  
GSCPA  
Educational Foundation



**Jacob Dease**  
Southeast Georgia GSCPA



**Rhett Gay**  
Ferrell Nichols Memorial  
Educational Foundation



**Kareem Gharbi**  
Draffin Tucker



**Cameron Jannuzzo**  
Educational Foundation



**Kathryn Kelly**  
CFO Council



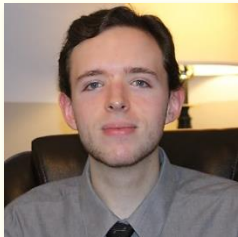
**Michael Gibson**  
Holland Henry Bromley



**Haley Jarman**  
Paul Lagrone



**Ashley Kubel**  
Mauldin & Jenkins



**Kenneth Glover**  
Cary, Ellen & Louise Long  
Educational Foundation  
Academic Excellence Award



**Charity Jenkins**  
Southeast Georgia GSCPA



**Jacob Lifsey**  
Parker Accounting Scholar  
Aprio



**Adam Hoste**  
CFO Council



**Braxton Johns**  
Savannah GSCPA



**Victoria Liggett**  
Warren Averett

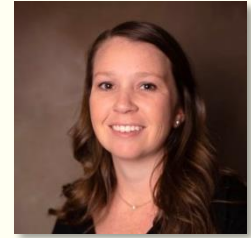




**Alicia Martinez**  
Sharon Jester Ponder



**Alyssa Morgan**  
Aprio



**Cailyn Sears**  
Moore Stephens Tiller



**Paulina Cobos Martinez**  
Dempsey Family



**Macall Rivers**  
J. Richard Henry



**Cassidy Stephens**  
Eidson Family



**Desiree McGhee**  
Ori James Beta Alpha Psi



**Jordan Robins**  
Southeast Georgia GSCPA



**Randall Talarek**  
HLB Gross Collins



**Christopher Mooney**  
G, H & I, LLP  
Southeast Georgia GSCPA



**Taylor Robins**  
D. Greg Morgan Family  
Educational Foundation



**Noble Turner**  
Robert Lange Accounting



**Coleman Vann**  
Southeast Georgia GSCPA



**Collis White**  
WIPFLI PKM



**Roy Williamson**  
Ritchie Jennings Memorial  
Southeast Georgia GSCPA



**Haley Walker**  
Cary, Ellen & Louise Long  
Educational Foundation



**Alissa Whittacre**  
Savannah IMA



**Bridgette Wooden**  
Ori James Beta Alpha Psi



**Jack Waller**  
Farrell Nichols Memorial



**Michael Wilkins**  
FSA



**Haley Woodruff**  
Murray & Lambreth



**Riley Wheeler**  
Southeast Georgia GSCPA



**Colton Williamson**  
Ori James Beta Alpha Psi



**Thomas Wren**  
WIPFLI PKM

## Additional Scholarship Recipients

---

**Katelyn Carter**

Parker Accounting Scholar – Incoming Freshman

**Jonathan O'Connell**

Educational Foundation of the GSCPA Scholarship

**Daniel Vos**

Institute of Internal Auditors Scholarship

**Simon Wilson**

Parker Accounting Scholar – Incoming Freshman



**PARKER**  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

**VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR**

Save the Date  
June 24th

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

**Driffin Tucker**      **Michael C. Lamberth**      **NICHOLS AULEY**

## Attention Students!

Join the SOA, accounting employers, and professors for the first ever **Virtual Career Fair**.

June 24, 2020

Details coming soon.



## Special Thanks to Sponsors of Accounting Day Scholarships



Savannah Chapter



### Individual Scholarships

Dempsey Family Scholarship

Eidson Family Scholarship

J. Richard Henry Scholarship

William T. Herring  
MAcc Scholarship

Billy & JoAnn Hickman  
MAcc Scholarship

Ori James Beta Alpha Psi  
Endowment

Paul Lagrone Scholarship

Robert H. Lange  
Memorial Scholarship

Cary, Ellen & Louise Long  
MAcc Scholarship

D. Greg Morgan  
Family Scholarship

Mary M. Murray & Dorothy B.  
Lambreth Scholarship

Farrell Nichols  
Memorial Scholarship

Sharon Jester Ponder  
Accounting Scholarship



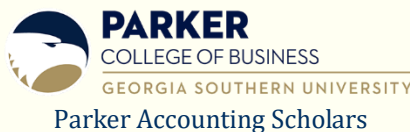
Coastal Chapter



Farrell Nichols Memorial



SAVANNAH CHAPTER



# Congratulations, Graduates!

Keep up the great work, working towards your goals including degrees, personal milestones, and employment.

You were not born to be ordinary. It is doubtful that you were explicitly told that you can be more, do more, have more, and contribute more. That is what brought you to Georgia Southern. This growth in your capacity has brought you to this point in time. You now have to continue on your path of personal discovery; this requires you to continue to grow and to put your potential to work.

**“Logic will get you from  
A to B. Imagination will  
take you everywhere.”**  
*Einstein*

Many of you have lost income from jobs on campus or around town. You may have lost out on internships, and now you are entering the workforce at a time when more than 30 million are filing for unemployment.

Control what you can. Learn something new every day. Your parents taught you new things every day whether you noticed it or not, and they are probably still shaping your ways of thinking. Your professors taught you something that you probably never knew before. Your boss or your co-workers will teach you something that you probably never thought about before. Whether you want to or not, you will continue to learn something new every day.

**“I learned there are troubles  
of more than one kind.  
Some come from ahead  
and some come from behind.”**  
*Dr. Seuss*

I know many things are uncertain. We are facing the economic and social impacts of this necessary

distancing, but the lessons we have learned about flexibility and resilience will make us stronger and more capable in the future.

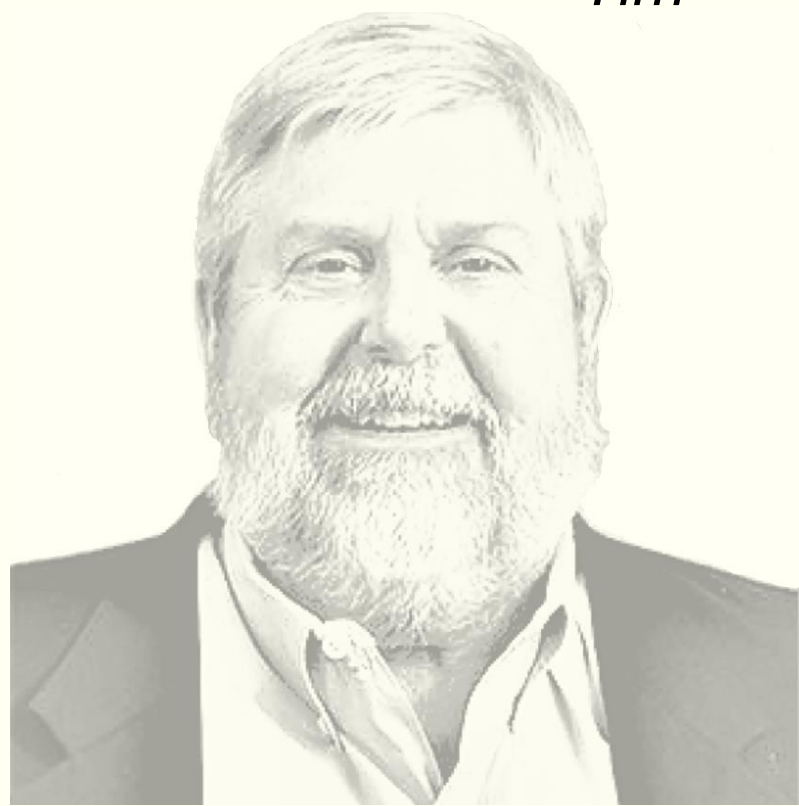
Everyone is going to be looking for people who can function at a high level in the LinkedIn-Microsoft teams-Zoom world.

Try to be grateful every day and tell someone thanks. Gratitude is part of the puzzle; the other big part is being kind to someone. We can be cranky, sad, or lethargic. But, instead of focusing on yourself OR faking gratitude, be accepting of those things from others with the kindness you would show to a cranky friend.

**“You’re on your own  
And you know what you know  
And you are the one who’ll  
decide where to go.”**  
*Dr. Seuss*

Best of Luck,

*Tim*



## December 2019 Graduates

### BBA in Accounting

Sarah Adkins  
Katherina Albers  
Yanna Amason  
Addison Barth  
William Brown  
Alyssia Brunet  
Maria Emilia Bujan  
Jabriel Butler  
Glenn Carlson  
Quashawn Clark  
Macy Coleman  
Carlye Cranford  
Hannah Crosby  
Lewis Davis  
Mattison Davis  
Akeya Day  
Samuel Fishbeck  
Gabrielle Fitzpatrick  
Alexis Fortune  
Michael Gordon  
Ashton Grant  
Nyla Hall  
Alison Harvey  
Ian Herndon  
Braxton Johns  
Shannon Kizer  
Jon Knight  
Matthew Korzik  
Bradley Kostensky  
Evan Love  
Phuong Luu  
Johnnae Marrero  
Ethan Mckibben  
Micheal Meadows  
Christopher Mooney  
Courtney Nottingham

Logan Paul  
Luther Porcena  
Maria Quintero-Rodriguez  
Kayla Rampersaud  
Taylor Roop  
Tracey Stewart  
Nick Stokoe  
Ethan Stone  
Eric Tillery  
Everett Webb  
Michael Wilkins  
Austin Willis  
Deanna Zeigler

### Master of Accounting

Dane Bailey  
Joseph Bates  
Jacqueline Brant  
Taylor Cook  
Victoria Kesler  
Jessica Weimerskirk  
John Yeomans





## May 2020 Graduates

### BBA in Accounting

Courtney Baumgartner  
Alia Booth  
Richard Bowen  
Brenna Burke  
Dawson Carey  
Cory Caughron  
Michael Cheesborough  
Thomas Colardo-Underwood  
Benjamin Cosby  
Steven Curry  
Alyssa Delaney  
Thu Do  
Tanasia Faison  
Mason Funderburke  
Megan Gavin  
Turquoise Godbolt  
Ashlyn Griffin  
Nallely Guevara  
Joshua Hagan  
Jordan Herring  
Drew Ingram  
Cameron Jannuzzo  
Aimee Knight  
Ashley Kubel  
Devontae Leary  
James Lusk  
Katherine Mancil  
Andrew Mathis  
Dylan Mccloud  
Shanti Mensah  
Miguel Moreno  
Alyssa Morgan  
Sarah Morton  
Alyssa Norris  
Riley Norton  
Clayton Parker  
Avery Phillips  
John Riddle

Elva Rios  
Julian Sanchez  
Connor Scott  
Antonio Shanks  
Abigail Smythe  
James Austin Wagner  
Griffin Walker  
Jared Warren  
Alissa Whittacre  
D'Antay Williams  
Colton Williamson

### Master of Accounting

Marcus Banks  
Wihan Botha  
Mallory Charlton  
Arecia Combs  
Jerry Doyle  
Caitlin Farmer  
Christian French  
Nick Hall  
Abigail Harrison  
Rachel Jones  
Jenni Karpowich  
Emma Mathews  
Joseph Maxwell  
Stephen Mikell  
Macy Miller  
Bradley Morgan  
Mary Olliff  
Megan Parker  
Briunna Robinson  
Matthew Strob  
William Stuart  
Katherine Wagner



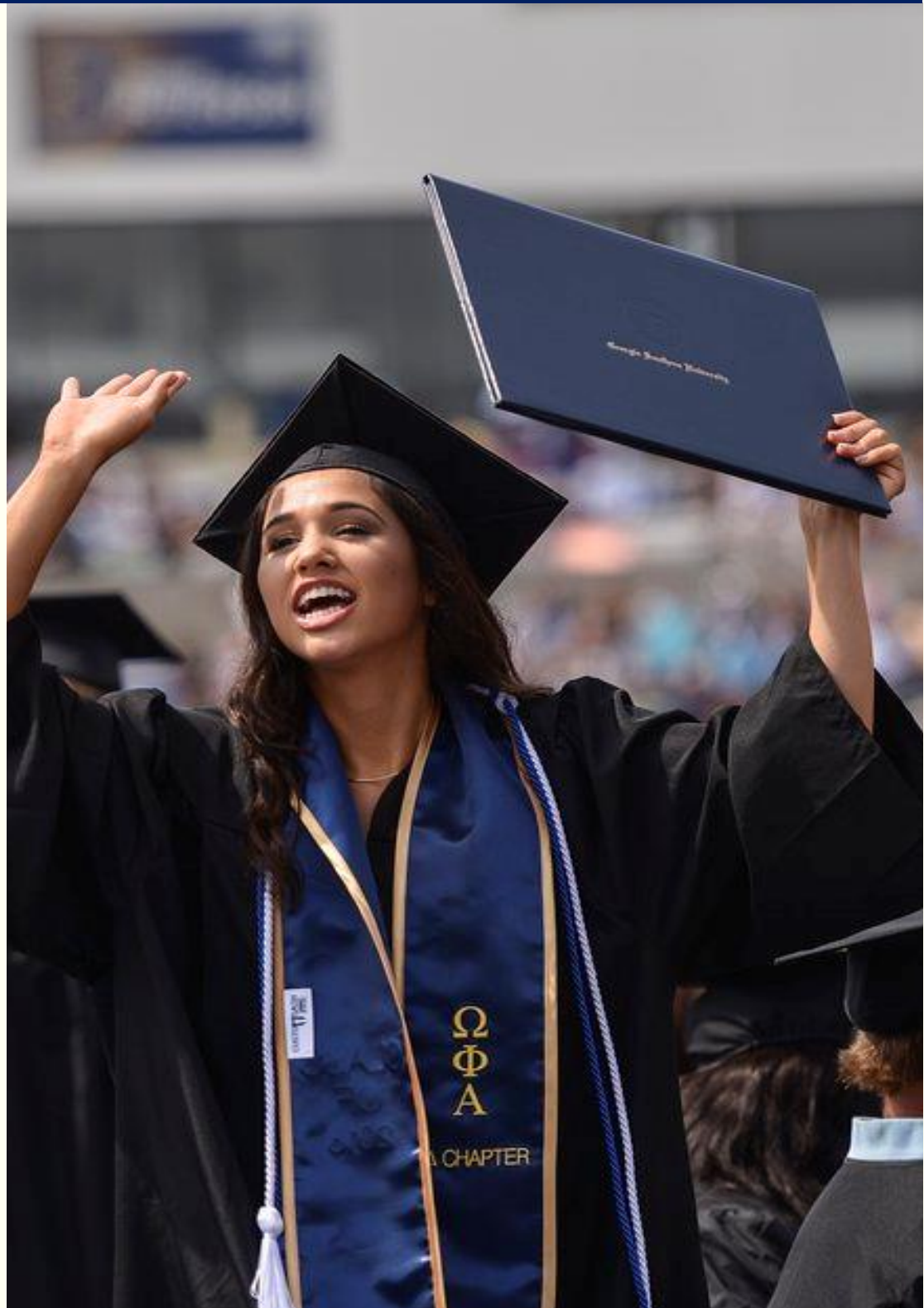
## August 2020 Graduates

### BBA in Accounting

Hope Chalk  
Zachary Dowling  
Michael Gibson  
Jessica Ginsburg  
Franklin Hagins  
Anna Landrum  
Sierra Mcwhirter  
Suraj Rath  
Sterling Stipe  
Catherine Sullivan  
Lunden Young

### Master of Accounting

Abeer Alhabardi  
Stafford Baum  
Taylor Bolyard  
Briana Brantley  
William Brown  
Glenn Carlson  
James Cochran  
Genesis De La Cruz  
Ashton Glenn  
Joshua Graham  
Brian Jackson  
Emily Martin  
Stephanie Mayfield  
Brent McNure  
Timothy Nichols  
Krishna Patel  
Tyra Price  
Zachary Proctor  
Cailyn Sears  
Rachel Shepherd  
Nabonswende Tonde  
Lindsay Truscott  
Lathon Whitley



## SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

### Honors Graduates

SPRING 2020

#### ***Summa Cum Laude***

*GPAs of 3.90 to 4.0*

Luukas Alakulppi  
Benjamin Cosby  
Michael Gibson  
Aimee Knight  
Elva Rios  
Jared Warren

#### ***Magna Cum Laude***

*GPAs of 3.70 to 3.89*

Steven Curry  
Drew Ingram  
Cameron Jannuzzo  
Ashley Kubel  
Alyssa Morgan  
Sarah Morton

#### ***Cum Laude***

*GPAs of 3.50 to 3.69*

Tanasia Faison  
Nallely Guevara  
Dylan McCloud  
Shanti Mensah  
Colton Williamson





## Spring 2020 Fraud, Forensic & Taxation Certificates

The undergraduate **Fraud Examination Certificate** in the School of Accountancy is a designation consisting of four upper division courses designed to prepare future entry-level fraud investigators. The curriculum encompasses fraud examination, fraud schemes, white-collar crime and forensic interviewing and interrogation.

The graduate **Forensic Accounting Certificate** in the School of Accountancy is limited to students who have completed the prerequisites for the MAcc program and have obtained the CFE designation from the ACFE or completed Georgia Southern's Fraud Examination Certificate program. It consists of four courses: cyber forensics, fraudulent financial reporting, expert witnessing and the forensic accounting capstone.

The graduate **Certificate in Taxation** trains tax specialists to serve the needs of the accounting and business communities. Admission is limited to students who have completed the prerequisites for the MAcc program. It consists of four courses: taxation of corporations & partnerships, tax research, taxation of pass-through entities, and multijurisdictional taxation.

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### Undergraduate **Fraud Examination Certificate**

Hope Chalk  
Jordan Herring  
Matthew Korzik  
James Lusk  
Andrew Mathis  
Sterling Stipe

### Graduate **Forensic Accounting Certificate**

Marcus Banks  
Genesis De La Cruz  
Jenni Karpowich

### Graduate **Taxation Certificate**

Mallory Charlton  
Christopher Fry  
Briunna Robinson





## Graduating Student Photos



Top row left to right:

2<sup>nd</sup> row left to right:

3<sup>rd</sup> row left to right:

Bottom row left to right:

Tyra Price

Terrie Bradley

Jerry Doyle

Katherine Wagner

Catherine Sullivan

William Stuart

Briana Brantley

Lathon Whitley

Katherine Mancil

Ashton Glenn

Nallely Guevara

Briunna Robinson

Cailyn Sears

James Cochran

## Student Reflections

**Marielle Anduyan** (Senior) “Professor Gloria Stuart went out and beyond with our online class transitions. She made income tax a lot of fun to learn about and, when we transitioned to fully online classes due to COVID-19, the transition was seamless. She made sure to update us every week of what she expected from us and made instructional videos that were immensely helpful to understanding the material! Thank you for everything, Professor Stuart, especially making this transition online a much easier one!”

**Gabrielle Beasley** (Junior) “Ms. Gloria Stuart has been amazing! I would not have made it through tax without her entertaining lectures and speedy responses to our questions and concerns.”

**Ashley Kubel** (Senior) “My learning experience for my final semester of undergrad has certainly not been what I expected, but there are still some takeaways that have made the time still educational and forward-moving. I appreciate more than anything the ability to still work with Dr. Britton McKay on a regular basis via our Google Hangout meetings. She has been readily available to assist me in completing my Honors Thesis successfully. More importantly, she has been my motivator and encouragement to finish the semester on the same note that I started and to take pride in my ability to learn, even if from a distance. She has been the connection that I have been missing from my second home in Statesboro, and I'm so grateful!”

**Emily Martin** (Master's) “Growth happens outside your comfort zone! I never signed up for online classes unless they were electives but, being forced into it due to COVID-19, I can say I've developed academically and professionally, and feel confident starting my new job remotely this fall!”

## Graduate Memories

**Terrie Bradley** “Thank you to Dr. Hairston for all your guidance, support and snacks!”

**Briana Brantley** “Dr. McKay, Dr. Hairston, and Dr. Dowis were amazing professors throughout my MAcc journey. I would happily register for any class they're teaching regardless of the subject. :)”

**James Cochran** “My favorite memories come from my involvement with Beta Alpha Psi and NABA. In 2018, the Beta Alpha Psi chapter attended the national meeting in Washington, D.C. As a group, we walked all over the nation's capital, viewing the landmarks, and meeting others from all over the country. In NABA, the regional conference in Atlanta was always a great experience, from networking with students from colleges throughout the southeast to learning new skills attributable to the accounting profession, I will always remember the memories created through these organizations.”

**Steven Curry** “My favorite professor from the accounting field was Professor Brian Dowis. I took him for my first accounting class, and I was a finance major at the time. At the conclusion of the class, he suggested I should switch to accounting. I liked him and his class so much that I decided to switch to accounting. I also enjoyed Professor Gloria Stuart's tax class, as she is one of the main reasons I chose the tax field.”

**Jerry Doyle** “Dr. Dowis is hilarious. His Sean Connery accent is second to none.”

**Mason Funderburke** “Brian Dowis: ‘DIVIDENDS ARE NEVER WHAT?!?’”

**Ashton Glenn** “Learning what type of class work we would be getting from Dr. Hairston, whether it be Fried, Neapolitan or (hopefully) Great Value Vanilla.”

**Nallely Guevara** “Professors B. McKay, G. Stuart, M. Wiggins and S. Stewart will always hold a special place in my heart. I hope they continue to teach with the same passion for years to come.”



**Cameron Jannuzzo & Colton Williamson** “Favorite professor: Ms. Gloria Stuart”

**Jenni Karpowich** “Favorite professor: Dr. Buckhoff, Expert Witnessing”

**Katherine Mancil** “My ‘favorite class’ was VITA! It was fun to actually do tax returns and help our community. I also enjoyed getting to know certain professors more through the course!”

**Riley Norton** “Managerial accounting with Dr. Buckhoff, it’s where I first discovered my enjoyment of accounting.”

**Tyra Price** “Favorite professors: Stephanie Hairston, Britton McKay, Gloria Stuart, Chuck Harter”

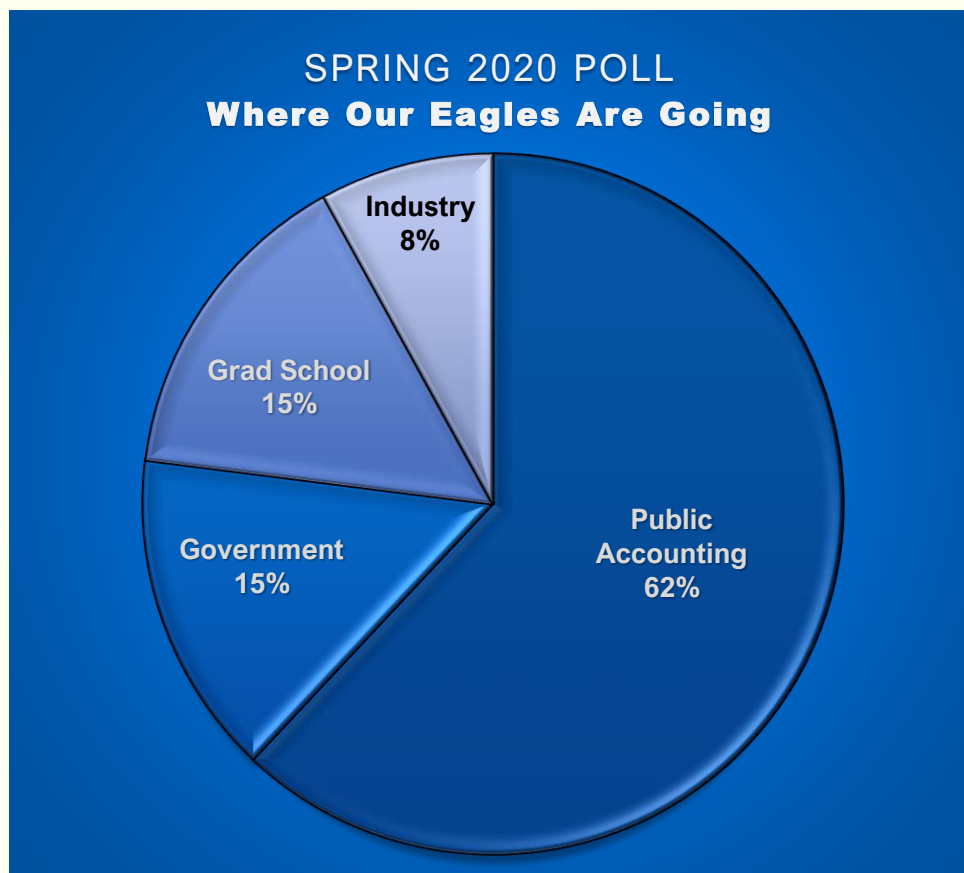
**Katera Shields** “My favorite professor would be Dr. Sneathen. Taking his intro to business class is the reason I chose accounting as one of my majors.”

**Abigail Smythe** “I think two of my favorite professors have to be Dr. Buckhoff and Dr. Sneathen. They really made my four years at college very memorable.”

**Catherine Sullivan** “Professor Whatley helped me fall in love with accounting, and I am forever grateful for her encouragement to pursue this career.”

**Katherine Wagner** “Dr. Dowis was my favorite professor”

**Lathon Whitley** “I would just like to say thank you to all the faculty and staff that have helped get me to this point. There were many times where I felt like I may have made the wrong decision by choosing to pursue accounting as my career. Through all the years, there was never a time where my professors stopped believing in me or my ability to succeed. Whether directly or indirectly, their support helped push me through many of those doubts.”



## Faculty Spotlight



### **Robert Jackson**

If you asked the last 16 years of School of Accountancy graduates about their most influential professor, one name would come up repeatedly: “Jackson.” Bob Jackson’s classes have become an institution at Georgia Southern. Some would refer to them as climbing a mountain, running a marathon, going 12 rounds with a heavyweight—or all of the above. We did a profile on Bob to get you more into the mind of the man and his motivations. You’ll find out why that intermediate III class seemed something like a war. To read the full article on your favorite (or most intimidating) professor, click the School of Accountancy website link below.

**["A Fork, a Knife and a Broken Spoon"](#)**

## Alumni Spotlight



### **Linette Rousseau**

Some students are almost too good. They don’t just read the text—they research the footnotes. They ask questions that make the prof say, “Err...let me get back to you on that.” Linette Rousseau was an all-time curve buster. She’s a 2016 MAcc graduate who was among only 58 (out of almost 100,000) to achieve Elijah Watt Sells honors on the CPA Exam in 2017. She worked for KPMG, she entered a Ph.D. program, received a prestigious Deloitte Doctoral Fellowship, and was honored with three teaching awards in just her first two years as a teaching assistant. To read the full article on this star Eagle, click the School of Accountancy website link below.

**["Dr. Accountant"](#)**



## BETA ALPHA PSI

The International Honor Organization for  
Financial Information Students and Professionals

### Faculty Advisors:

Charles Harter, Ph.D.  
Stephanie Hairston, Ph.D.  
Paula Mooney, CPA

### Officers:

*President*, Genesis De La Cruz  
*VP of Programs*, Miguel Moreno  
*VP of Service / Treasurer*, Tyra Price  
*Reporting Secretary*, James Cochran

### About:

Beta Alpha Psi is a national honors organization. Students who have a 3.0 or higher GPA are invited to join. Members take part in professional development opportunities and engage in service. The Beta Alpha Psi Zeta Delta chapter at Georgia Southern was formed in 1980.



### Update:

During the 2019-2020 academic year, Beta Alpha Psi made several strides. This semester, we had 27 candidates, 17 pre-candidates, and 10 returning members participate in our programs. In addition to our regularly scheduled professional meetings during the beginning of the semester, we also held two virtual meetings after all courses were moved to online delivery. Our candidates and members completed more than 310 community service hours; many of those service hours were completed in service to those most affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. We would also like to

recognize the hard work and commitment of our officers as they spent a significant amount of time organizing meetings, finding community service opportunities, and keeping our members informed.



### National Conference:

Our officers attended the annual Beta Alpha Psi meeting in Chicago, as well as the regional meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Our Beta Alpha Psi chapter was recognized as a superior chapter at the annual meeting in Chicago, and our officers presented on the use of technology in chapter operations along with several other universities at the regional meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Our officers did an excellent job representing the University at both conferences and were among the top groups presenting at the regional conference. We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of our members and officers and look forward to the semester ahead for Beta Alpha Psi.

### Thanks to the following sponsors:

Webster Rogers; Mauldin & Jenkins; Aprio; Wipfli; Draffin & Tucker; Nichols Cauley; Warren Averett; Smith & Howard; Rodl & Partner; Moore Stephens Tiller; Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon; HLB Gross Collins

### Thanks to the following presenters:

Aprio, Webster Rogers; Nichols Cauley; Draffin & Tucker; Mauldin & Jenkins; PwC, Warren Averett; Bennett Thrasher; Hancock Askew; Surgent CPA; Moore, Stephens, & Tiller; Nichols Cauley; Smith & Howard; Wipfli





## Accounting Association

### Faculty Advisors:

Brian Dowis, DBA  
Ann Henderson, CPA

### Fall Officers:

*President*, Jessica Ginsberg  
*VP Communications*, McCall Rivers  
*VP Service*, Cameron Jannuzzo  
*VP Education*, Ashlyn Griffin  
*Secretary*, Sierra McWhirter  
*Treasurer*, Alyssa Morgan

### Spring Officers:

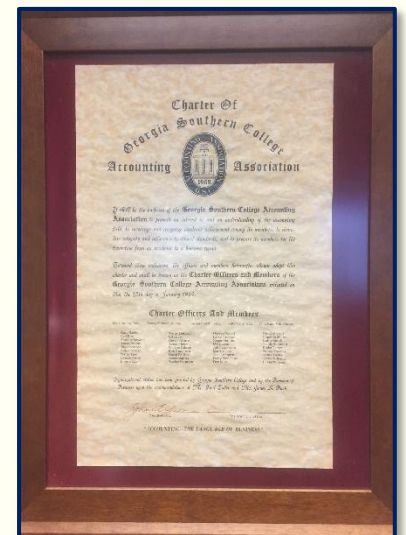
*President*, Alyssa Morgan  
*VP Communications / Secretary*, Ashlyn Griffin  
*VP Service*, Lunden Young  
*Treasurer*, Rich Havighors

### About:

The Accounting Association was chartered at Georgia Southern in 1969. It is open to all students. The Accounting Association provides students with opportunities to attend meetings to help shape professional development.

### Update:

The Accounting Association began the fall semester with an interactive presentation given by a panel of students who recently completed internships with public accounting firms (See picture). Don Berecz presented a program in October outlining Georgia Southern's Certificate in Fraud Examination. Our last program of the fall semester included a popular presentation by Eagle alumni Garrett Alexander and Kevin Pope of TJS Deemer Dana. The spring semester began with an informative and interesting program provided by Gloria Stuart. She outlined the School of Accountancy's involvement with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. We ended the semester with a program provided by Britton McKay who gave the students valuable information about our MAcc program. Additionally, students enjoyed pizza and soft drinks before each presentation.





## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ACCOUNTANTS

### Faculty Advisors:

Errol Stewart, Ph.D.

Stephanie Hairston, Ph.D.

### Officers:

*President*, Alyssa Morgan

*Vice President*, Lunden Young

*Treasurer*, James Cochran

*Secretary*, Terrie Bradley

### About:

National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) is about providing opportunities to minority students by bridging the gap (but it is open to ALL ethnicities and all business majors), focusing not only on academics, but also leadership and professional opportunities. The focus is on developing members' résumés, soft skills, and interview techniques, while also providing opportunities to earn internship and scholarship opportunities.

### Update:

NABA had a lot of great moments this year. In the fall of 2019, ten members of NABA attended the Southern Region Student Conference in Atlanta. Students had the opportunity to network, land internships and full-time job offers with industry companies as well as regional and Big Four accounting firms. Two members earned scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000, and another landed an internship with a Big Four firm. Two of our members also delivered outstanding presentations at our meetings on netiquette (Terrie Bradley) and the job process: planning, preparation to accepting an offer (James Cochran).

### NABA Climb:

NABA hosted its second semiannual NABA Climb event in the fall. This is a new tradition in which members practice the NABA motto of "Lifting as we Climb." We went wall climbing and bouldering at the RAC. NABA also hosted a Game Night in February. We played a fun, informative jeopardy game to celebrate Black History month. Unfortunately, many of the events we had planned to host in March and April had to be rescheduled due to the pandemic.





## Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

### Faculty Advisor:

Thomas Buckhoff, Ph.D.

### Officers:

*President*, Emily Johnson

*VP of Programs*, Taylor Robbins

*VP of Membership*, Daniel Vos

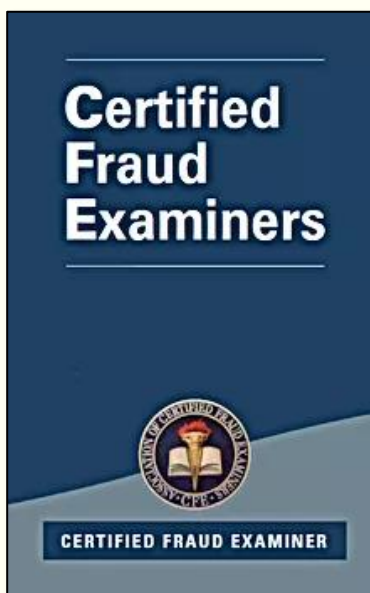
*Secretary*, Abi Brannen

### About:

The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) is open to all business majors who are interested in fraud examination and forensic studies.

### Update:

During the academic year, the ACFE aims to host monthly meetings with guest speakers to give insight into the fraud examination field. Don Berecz spoke at a meeting in November on his previous 23-year experience as a special agent for the FBI. Berecz is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), and Certified Forensic Interviewer (CFI). His areas of specialization include polygraph, criminal investigations, white-collar crime, fraud examination, forensic accounting, and forensic interviews and interrogations. Thomas Buckhoff spoke at a meeting to give his insight into the field of forensic accounting. Buckhoff is also certified in financial forensics by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In March of this year, Emily Johnson and Daniel Vos gave a presentation on how to conduct an effective fraud investigation at the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) meeting.





# VITA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

## Faculty Coordinators:

Gloria Stuart, CPA  
Chuck Harter, Ph.D.  
Paula Mooney, CPA

## Faculty Volunteers:

Stephanie Hairston, Ph.D.  
Ann Henderson, CPA  
Edie Olliff, CPA

## About:

Accounting students and faculty provided free tax preparation and e-file services to the local community. This free service for low-to-moderate income taxpayers is part of the national IRS sponsored program Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). The VITA site was located at City Center in downtown Statesboro. It was conducted on selected dates.

Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the VITA class for course credit. The VITA program provides a unique experiential learning opportunity for accounting students. Students apply concepts learned in the classroom to real tax situations and provide a valuable service to members of the community. All accounting students and faculty volunteering for the VITA program completed training and passed the IRS VITA certification exams. Tax returns were prepared using professional tax software provided by the IRS. All tax returns had to go through a quality review process.

"Being a part of the VITA program gave me an opportunity to receive real-world, hands-on experience preparing income tax returns," Alyssa Morgan, senior accounting major said. "It also helped me further develop my soft skills and add more certifications to my résumé."

## Update:

VITA tax prep sessions started on January 29 and ran through mid-March when the University went to remote learning. Tax prep sessions were available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and select Saturdays. Even with the shorter timeframe, volunteers in the VITA program prepared 61 returns totaling \$53,401 of refunds. There will be an announcement in the fall for students interested in participating in the VITA program next spring. Stay tuned to ACCLINK for any VITA announcements or contact Gloria Stuart at [gstuart@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:gstuart@georgiasouthern.edu).



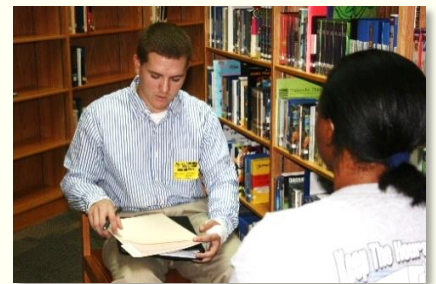


## Interviews & Interrogations Outreach

The objective in Don Berecz's "Forensic Interviews and Interrogation" ACCT4633 course in our Fraud Examination Certificate Program is to develop students into excellent interviewers. Students conduct weekly "field" mock interviews during each semester. Berecz has scheduled mock job interviews each semester for the past ten years at a local high school. Our accounting students interview high school seniors involved in the career development phase of their English classes.

The high school English teachers assisted their students to prepare applications, résumés, and cover letters for a job or a career of interest to each student. Our students were prepared with reviews of all the files and professional interviewing procedures in a human resources environment. After the interviews, our students submit evaluation forms for each interview with ratings, comments, and a recommended hiring decision. As part of this experience, the high school English teachers assist then meet with each student to discuss their strengths and weaknesses.

In addition to this assignment, our students conduct close to ten other mock interviews with role players during the semester. The end of each semester involves the interrogation phase of the course. Students study and conduct exercises involving the detection of deception, denials, accusations, rationalizations and obtaining admissions and confessions.





## Legal Eagles: 13<sup>th</sup> Annual MAcc Mock Trial

Many Eagle MAcc students have experienced what it's like to be in a contentious accounting fraud trial. In 2007, Tom Buckhoff conceived of staging a mock trial for his ACCT7636 Expert Witnessing course. He had a background as an expert witness and wanted to give students a feel for it. The first trial was a success, and the mock trial has become an annual November staple of the MAcc program.



"I know of no better way for graduate students to practice what they have learned in expert witnessing than to participate in a mock trial," stated Buckhoff. "They learn much from the successes and failures they experience...and gain professional confidence in the process."

Students spend most of the semester learning the facts of the case and the legal issues. Buckhoff breaks them into two teams, assigning each team the roles of lawyers, fact witnesses and expert witnesses. They receive a crash course in legal evidence and court procedure. Actual attorneys serve as coaches. A Bulloch County judge oversees the case at the historic county courthouse. Parker College of Business students have served as jurors and, over the years, many students have spectated. It's usually close to a full house, providing a sense of drama—and a few nerves—for the participants.

Michael Wiggins, a member of the legal studies faculty in the School of Accountancy, has coached for the past 12 years. He observed, "These students don't have the legal knowledge that mock trial participants do in law school. But they sure know the subject matter of their mock trials much better than law students know the subject matter of theirs. It makes for interesting moments as they worry their

way through the rules of evidence but really knock it out of the park when it comes to knowing the technical aspects of the subject of the lawsuit."

The students get into the spirit of the occasion, acting a lot like lawyers for a day. Wiggins noted, "In many ways, these students are very much like law students. When a prof in law school picks a student to represent a side in moot court, he or she comes to believe in the justice of it and will fight tooth and nail for it. These grad accounting students are the same, they really go for the win. At times, they've pushed the limits just like aggressive trial attorneys. Years ago, Judge Gary Mikell even had to slam his gavel to restore order."

Jenni Karpowich, a MAcc student, participated in the fall 2019 trial. "I personally think losing the mock trial was the best learning experience because I [was able to learn] from our mistakes and think about how I can improve." Genesis De La Cruz, also in the MAcc program, felt the experience was valuable; "I was able to feel what it is like to be in court, around a judge and a jury, and learning the court procedures. It is certainly an experience... which I will be able to look back on when it is time to for my first real case."



## Faculty Awards

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The SOA honors seven outstanding faculty who won 2020 Parker College of Business awards.



**Charles Harter**

Porter Keadle Moore, LLP Faculty Fellowship



**Dwight Sneathen**

Porter Keadle Moore, LLP Faculty Fellowship



**Lainie Harris**

Olivia Suggs Flanagan Faculty Fellowship



**Gloria Stuart**

Olivia Suggs Flanagan Faculty Fellowship



**Britton McKay**

Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon Scholar



**Stephanie Sipe**

Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon Scholar



**Maliece Whatley**

Michael W. Skinner SOA Excellence Fund

## Promotion & Tenure



**W. Brian Dowis**  
*Associate Professor*

W. Brian Dowis was promoted to the rank of associate professor and awarded tenure. Before becoming a full-time faculty member at Georgia Southern University, Brian taught accounting and taxation at Southeastern University and worked for Ernst & Young in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he earned his CPA. His research interests include behavioral and archival taxation. Brian teaches financial accounting and taxation.



**Stephanie Hairston**  
*Associate Professor*

Stephanie Hairston was promoted to the rank of associate professor and awarded tenure. Before becoming a full-time faculty member teaching accounting at Georgia Southern University, Stephanie worked for Ernst & Young in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she earned her CPA. Her research interests include archival capital markets, audit risk assessment, and the market for audit services. Stephanie teaches financial accounting.



**Gloria Stuart**  
*Senior Lecturer*

Gloria Stuart was promoted to the rank of senior lecturer. Before becoming a full-time faculty member at Georgia Southern University, Gloria worked in public accounting, primarily in the area of taxation. Gloria has served as a faculty advisor to the Accounting Association, a site coordinator for the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program, and the coordinator of ACCT 2101. Gloria teaches financial accounting and taxation.

## New Faces in the SOA



### Melvin Lamboy-Ruiz

Melvin A. Lamboy-Ruiz is an assistant professor who joined Georgia Southern in 2019. He comes from Iowa State University, where he taught intermediate accounting and was the faculty advisor for the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) Iowa State Student Chapter. Currently, he teaches intermediate accounting III and principles of accounting. Melvin has a Ph.D. in Management (Accounting) from Purdue University and is a Certified Public Accountant (Puerto Rico). As a result of his experience in the healthcare industry as a hospital administrator, his primary research interest is the impact of accounting information quality on socially significant outcomes in the healthcare industry. Melvin likes to open every lecture with “Let’s talk about accounting.”



### Andrea Scheetz

Andrea M. Scheetz joined Georgia Southern University in 2019 as an experienced assistant professor. She joins us after teaching for the past three years at Radford University in Virginia. Andrea’s Ph.D. in Management (Accounting) is from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Andrea has experience in both audit and corporate accounting, and so really enjoys teaching intermediate accounting II. Her primary area of research is behavioral (judgement and decision making) as it relates to whistleblowing on fraud, an interest she’s nurtured since her high school senior honors thesis on the *Sarbanes-Oxley Act!* Andrea’s family, her husband Sam, daughter Amelia (4 years old), son Elijah (2 years old), and corgi-mix dog Fred (14 years old) are trying (and failing) to acclimate to the Georgia heat, humidity and gnats.



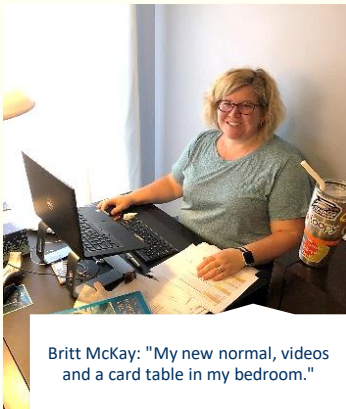
### Paula Mooney

Paula Mooney, CPA, CFE, CGMA, is a lecturer who re-joined Georgia Southern in 2019. She originally taught here in 1989 when she left her career in audit with Deloitte to follow her husband, Lowell, to Georgia Southern. After four years, she left to go back into the “real world” where she served as the CFO for the Bulloch County Board of Education; a full-time mom; a consultant providing forensic accounting and litigation support consulting, CFO services and accounting software technical assistance and training; and the CFO of Bethany Home, Inc., a non-profit organization. In 2016, she returned to teaching at Savannah State University and then came full circle when she re-joined Georgia Southern in fall 2019. Paula graduated from the University of Georgia with a BBA in Accounting and a MAcc in Auditing/Systems. She has taught principles of accounting I and II, auditing, internal auditing, intro to business, and accounting information systems. Her areas of interest are leadership and audit quality.



## Going Online

In a semester unlike any other, accounting faculty had to transfer courses to an online format, record audio and video lectures, and set up meetings in Zoom, Google Hangouts and other platforms, all on very short notice. In the end, after many hours of labor, they made it work for Georgia Southern accounting students.



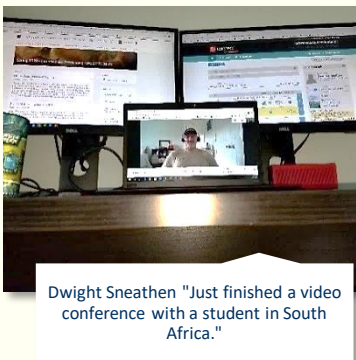
Britt McKay: "My new normal, videos and a card table in my bedroom."



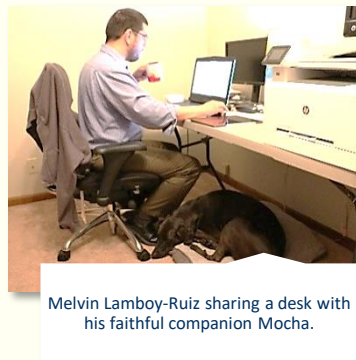
Maliece Whatley attending a virtual meeting with a little helper!



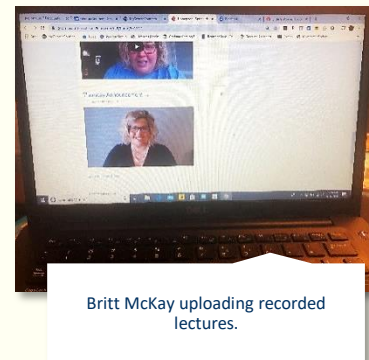
Andrea Scheetz teaching live virtual classes from her back porch.



Dwight Sneathen "Just finished a video conference with a student in South Africa."



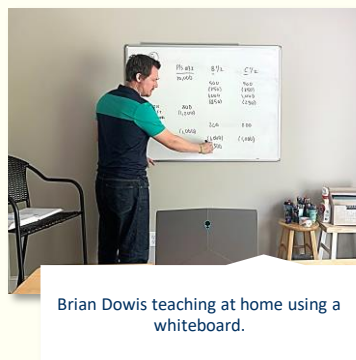
Melvin Lamboy-Ruiz sharing a desk with his faithful companion Mocha.



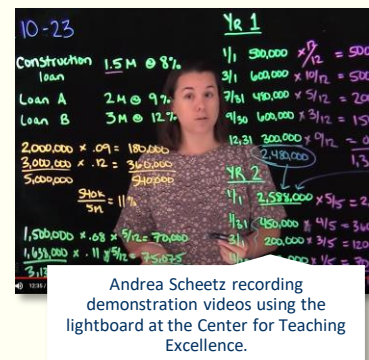
Britt McKay uploading recorded lectures.



Lainie Harris recording lectures from home.



Brian Dowis teaching at home using a whiteboard.



Andrea Scheetz recording demonstration videos using the lightboard at the Center for Teaching Excellence.

**Oh Baby!** Zoom sessions went well until one day I was in the middle of a live session review with several students logged in, showing up in their boxes on the screen. I heard an odd noise from one of the students and checked the screen. The "student" was my one-year-old granddaughter sitting on a couch babbling cheerful nonsense! My teenage son had hacked into the meeting from another part of the house and propped his baby niece in front of his laptop camera for all to see (as if dual enrollment had been taken to a ridiculous extreme). I remotely muted and stopped the video function on the computer he was using, and the babbling baby show was over. I hoped none of the students noticed—I was too embarrassed to ask. *Michael Wiggins*

## Faculty Research & Publication Highlights

Brooks, M., **S. Hairston**, and **C. Harter**. 2020. Does Manager Ability Influence the Classification of Lease Arrangements? *Journal of Applied Accounting Research*, Forthcoming.

**Dowis, B., L. Harris**, and **M. Wiggins**. 2019. Real Estate Tax Law Changes: An Update. *Real Estate Taxation* 46, no. 3: 24-32

**Evans, J. W.**, and Gabel, A. L. 2020. Legal Entrepreneurship and the Strategic Virtues of Legal Uncertainty. *American Business Law Journal* 57, no. 3, Forthcoming.

Flasher, R. and **M. A. Lamboy-Ruiz**. 2019. Impact of Enforcement on Healthcare Billing Fraud: Evidence from the USA. *Journal of Business Ethics* 157, no. 1: 217-229.

**Hairston, S., C. Harter**, and **B. McKay**. 2020. Bridging the CPA Exam Gap: Do Internships Matter? *American Journal of Business Education*, Forthcoming.

**Hairston, S.**, and J. Robelo. 2019. Simplifying Share-Based Payment Accounting: The Influence of FASB ASU No.2016-09 on Earnings and Cash Flow Volatility. *Accounting and Finance Research* 8, no. 2: 67-74

**Hairston, S., C. Harter**, and **B. McKay**. 2020. Bridging the CPA Exam Gap: Do Internships Matter? *American Journal of Business Education*, Forthcoming.

**Hairston, S.**, Z. Liu, and J. Yu. 2019. Does Manager Ability Influence Prospectus Earnings Quality and IPO Underpricing? *Accounting and Finance Research* 8, no. 1: 1-29.

**Hairston, S.**, D. Wu, and J. Yu. 2019. Analyzing the LinkedIn Profiles of Audit Partners: A Snapshot of Firm Leadership. *CPA Journal* (March): 54-57.

**Hairston, S.**, and M. Brooks. 2019. Derivative Accounting and Financial Reporting Quality: A Review of the Literature. *Advances in Accounting* 44: 81-94.

Huang, T., J. Lin, and **S. Hairston**. 2019. A ranking system for auditors? An examination of the top 100 accounting firms in China. *International Journal of Auditing* 23, no. 2: 204-230.

**Jackson, R.**, and **L. D. Sneathen**. 2019. Journal Entries As Tools for Financial Statement Disclosure of Pension Reporting and Other Comprehensive Income. *American Journal of Business Education* 12, no. 3: 43-52.

Janvrin, D. J., M. F. Mascha, and **M. A. Lamboy-Ruiz**. 2019. SOX 404(b) Audits: Evidence from Auditing the Financial Close Process. *Journal of Information Systems*, Forthcoming.

**Lamboy-Ruiz, M. A.**, W. G. No, and O. V. Watanabe. 2019. Discrepancies in Hospital Financial Information: Comparison of Financial Data in State Data Repositories and the Healthcare Cost Reporting Information System. *Journal of Information Systems* 33, no. 3: 19-44.

**Lamboy-Ruiz, M. A.**, J. N. Cannon, and O. V. Watanabe. 2019. Does State Community Benefits Regulation Influence Charity Care and Operational Efficiency of U. S. Nonprofit Hospitals? *Journal of Business Ethics* 158, no. 2: 441-465.

Ling, Q., **A. M. Scheetz**, and J. Wall. 2020. Lowering Standards: Unintended Consequences of 990-N and Value Congruence on Cost Shifting. *Journal of Forensic & Investigative Accounting*, Forthcoming.

**Mooney, L.** and A. Grossman. 2019. Inclusion Fairness in Accounting, Finance, and Management: An Investigation of A-Star Publications on the ABCD Journal List. *Journal of Business Research* 95 (February): 232-241.

**Scheetz, A. M.**, T. Smalls, J. Wall, and A. B. Wilson. 2020. Do Employee Fraud Reporting Intentions Differ Between For-Profit and Non-Profit Organizations? *Journal of Governmental & Nonprofit Accounting*, Forthcoming.

**Scheetz, A. M.** and T. J. Fogarty. 2020. Uncertain Jobs Produce Reluctant Employees: Psychological Contract Violations and Intentions to Whistleblow. *Journal of Managerial Issues* XXXII, no. 2 (Summer): 176-194.

**Scheetz, A. M.** and T. J. Fogarty. 2019. Walking the Talk: Enacted Ethical Climates as Psychological Contract Venues for Potential Whistleblowers. *Journal of Accounting & Organizational Change* 15, no. 4: 654-677.

**Scheetz, A. M.** and A. B. Wilson. 2019. Are Not-for-profit Employees More Willing (or Likely) to Whistleblow? *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Management* 31, no. 1: 2-25.

**Scheetz, A. M.** and J. Wall. 2019. Making Crime Pay: Timing of External Whistleblowing. *Research on Professional Responsibility and Ethics in Accounting* 22: 1-30.

**Stewart, E. G.**, and **T. D. Cairney**. 2019. Audit Report Lag and Client Industry Homogeneity. *Managerial Auditing Journal* 34, no. 8: 1008 – 1028.

## TEXTBOOKS

Smith, E. P., P. J. Harmelink, and J. R. Hasselback. 2020. *CCH Federal Taxation. Comprehensive Topics*. Riverwoods, IL: Wolters Kluwer. (**W. B. Dowis** is a Contributing Author for Chapters 7, 22, 23)

Smith, E. P., Harmelink, P. J., and J. R. Hasselback. *CCH Federal Taxation. Comprehensive Topics*. Riverwoods, IL: Wolters Kluwer, 2021. (**W. B. Dowis** is a Contributing Author for Chapter 7, 22, 23) (forthcoming)

**Wiggins, M.**, and J. Sherman. 2019. *White-Collar-Crime: A Corporate Approach*. Dubuque, IA: Great River Learning.



## Faculty Notes

**Brian Dowis** was named 2019 Professor of the Year by Georgia Southern Athletics and 2019 Faculty Member of the Year by the Sun Belt Conference.

**Justin Evans** won the *Academy of Legal Studies in Business* 2019 Ralph Bunche Award for Best International Law Paper of the Year, "The Chinese Experiment: Lessons from the Regulation of Ridesharing Companies" (with Abbey Stemler and Blake Himebaugh). In addition, Evans won a Georgia Southern Undergraduate Research Award.

**Ann Henderson** served as board member and fundraiser co-chair for Rebecca's Café (Soup Kitchen) for their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, "10 years and 50,000 meals."

**Melvin Lamboy-Ruiz** was appointed 2019-2020 editor of the "AAA Diversity Section Newsletter."

**Paula Mooney** received the GSCPA Meritorious Service Award.

**Timothy Pearson** was appointed the AAA 2020 Forensic Accounting Section annual meeting coordinator.

**Andrea Scheetz** won the AAA 2020 Annual Forensic Section Best Paper Award and the AAA 2020 Forensic Midyear Meeting Public Interest Best Paper Award.

**Gloria Stuart, Chuck Harter** and **Paula Mooney** were awarded a Georgia Southern University Faculty Service Grant for VITA.

**Michael Wiggins** completed a Master of Science in Accountancy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

## Accounting Association Professor of the Year 2020



Each year accounting students vote on the best, most inspiring professor in the School of Accountancy. No stranger to this award is Gloria Stuart, who was voted yet again the top professor in the School of Accountancy.

***Congratulations, Gloria!***

## SOA Alumni Notes & Promotions

### **Rebecca Beck** BBA, MAcc (2012)

is a tax manager at EY in San Antonio, Texas.

### **Matt Breida** BBA (2017)

signed a one-year \$3.26 million contract on April 16, 2020, to play running back for the Miami Dolphins for the 2020-21 season.

### **Hannah (de Kleer) Brown** MAcc (2015)

was promoted to experienced manager of accounting and reporting advisory services at BDO USA, LLP in Montpelier, Vermont.

### **Trey Burgamy** BBA (2010)

was promoted to associate director of income tax compliance at Warner Media (A division of AT&T, Inc.).

### **Mathew Caines** BBA (2013)

was promoted to partner of Canady Hodges in Savannah.

### **Misty Chancey** BBA, MAcc (2017)

was promoted to supervisor of healthcare practice for Draffin Tucker's Albany office.

### **D'Angelo Charlton** MAcc (2012)

was promoted to manager at WIPFLI, LLP in Atlanta.

### **Aaron Cohen** MAcc (2012)

is an investigator of ethics & compliance at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

### **Carrie Connell** BBA, MAcc (2004)

was promoted to partner of risk advisory services in WIPFLI, LLP in Atlanta.

### **David Cypher** MAcc (2006)

is vice president of property accounting at Cortland Partners in Atlanta.

### **Rob Douglas** BBA, MAcc (2011)

is a manager at Mauldin & Jenkins in Albany. He was named a finalist in 2019 by the Albany Chamber of Commerce *Under 40* Program.

### **Rosaine Fry** BBA (1997)

was promoted to manager at RLB Accountants in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

### **Merrit Garnto** BBA, MAcc (2014)

was promoted to manager of commercial practice for Draffin Tucker's Albany office.

### **Hannah Ginn**, BBA, MAcc (2014)

was promoted to tax manager at James Moore & Company in Gainesville, Florida.

### **Natasha Goss** BBA, MAcc (2008)

is an associate professor of accounting and business at East Georgia College in Swainsboro. In 2019 she won the *Distinguished Faculty of the Year* award for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

### **Stephen Griffin** BBA, MAcc (2016)

is an investigator with the Office of the Inspector General in Atlanta.

### **Michelle Ham** MAcc (2018)

was promoted to Vice President for Business Affairs at the College of Coastal Georgia.

### **Patrick Hopkins** MAcc (2008)

completed his Ph.D. in Accountancy from the University of Arkansas and joined Texas Christian University as an assistant professor of taxation and accounting in 2019.

### **Kristen Lord** BBA, MAcc (2006)

was promoted to CFO and partner of Mauldin & Jenkins in Atlanta.

### **Jeremy Myers** BBA, MBA (2009)

is vice president and loan officer of First Bank of Coastal Georgia in Pembroke and Richmond Hill.

### **Philip Olds** BBA (1977)

recently finished the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of his textbook, *Survey of Accounting*, published by McGraw-Hill. Olds is an associate professor of accounting at Virginia Commonwealth University.

### **Jake Patton** BBA, MAcc (2013)

was promoted to senior associate in the tax practice of Moore Colson in Atlanta.

### **Brian Prevatt** BBA, MAcc (2009)

is the CFO of Parker's. He was named to Georgia Southern's *40 Under 40* Class of 2019.

**Justin Reynolds BBA, MAcc (2010)**

is manager of financial, planning, analysis & reporting at thyssenkrupp in Atlanta.

**Mandy Sayer BBA (2003)**

was promoted to director of internal audit for TIAA. She is a professor of accounting practice at UNC–Chapel Hill.

**John Schultz BBA, MAcc (2005)**

was promoted to partner of Mauldin & Jenkins in Atlanta.

**Lori Sigler BBA, MAcc (2004)**

is the COO & CFO of Myspark. In 2019 she was named one of Birmingham Business Journal's *Top 40 Under 40*.

**Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith BBA (1985)**

is a three-star general in the U.S. Army. He works in the Pentagon as a chief compliance officer.

**Chris Williamson BBA, MAcc (2014)**

was promoted to senior manager at Aprio in Atlanta.

## In Memoriam



### Lloyd Billard (1929 – 2020)

Lloyd "Jack" Billard passed away on March 13, 2020. Jack attended the University of Illinois for his bachelor's and the University of Arkansas for his MBA. He joined the faculty at Georgia Southern College (University) in the 1960s where he served as a professor of accountancy and department chair for several years. He mentored Lamar Blount, the first student in the history of Georgia Southern to pass all four sections of the CPA Exam before graduation. He was mentioned favorably in the book *In Our Own Words: A Story Untold: From Segregation to Integration to Assimilation 1965 to 1985*. John Lawrence was an African American student athlete and accounting major who

attended Georgia Southern in the 1960s, later becoming the highest-ranking African American accountant in the country for Haskins and Sells, the predecessor to Deloitte. Lawrence recounted in the book that even in those days, professor Billard was singled out to him by fellow students as a professor who would treat him fairly.



### Gordon Colson (1948 – 2020)

Gordon "Greg" Colson passed away on March 17, 2020. He graduated from Georgia Southern in 1970 with a BBA in accounting. He served in the Air Force Reserves from 1970 to 1976. In 1975, he married Sue Carter. In 1981, Greg cofounded Moore Colson, an accounting firm in Atlanta that started with three accountants, a bookkeeper and a receptionist and today boasts 24 partners and over 160 employees. He served as managing partner for 27 years, retiring from Moore Colson in 2010. Greg was actively involved in a number of charitable causes and two churches, Johnson Ferry Baptist and Lake Oconee Church. Greg was a mentor to many and often stated that his priorities

were "Faith, Family and Firm in that order."



### Francis Marion Fletcher (1936 – 2020)

Francis Marion Fletcher passed away on April 19, 2020. He was a long-time friend of the School of Accountancy. Marion began his career as an engineer for Boeing, helping design the wings for the B-52 G and H models. He later attended the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received his MBA and Ph.D. Marion then served as a professor at LSU and earned an esteemed fellowship at the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C. It was as a professor at LSU that he met Leslie Fletcher. They were married in 1978 and later moved to Statesboro where Leslie Fletcher, Ph.D., served for 26 years on the accounting faculty at Georgia Southern, retiring in

2019. Marion was a great in the garden and often referred to himself as "Leslie's yardman." He was also an accomplished bridge player, achieving the rank of Life Master. Marion and Leslie were fantastic hosts and presided over many memorable get togethers for the School of Accountancy faculty. His hospitality and intellect will be sorely missed.



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